

Report to the Kansas Water Authority

**by David Barfield, Chief Engineer,
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Lawrence, Kansas | November 4, 2011**

Drought initiatives/multi-year flexibility

- Drought Terms –1141 accepted; 777 approved, still coming in; 2 multi-year flex account applications.
- Educational meetings – 4 educational meetings are planned for Larned, Pratt, Garden City, and Hugoton on November 15-16. DWR will share about water rights, droughts, and options for next year (revised MYFA); KSU will share tools and options for irrigation.
- Proposed enhancements to MYFA for 2012 legislative session. Positive response.

Support to the OAAC

- With Wayne Bossert and Reviser, drafted the LEMA legislation
- Drafting alternatives to eliminating “use it or lose it” in closed areas.

Water Administration:

- Very active year of water right administration as well as MDS administration continues on many streams, esp. in southeast and south-central Kansas.
 - City of Independence challenges DWR regulation; under temporary restraining order at this time (Independence is taking Coffeetown and CR water).
 - Unresolved question with KWO: Are water reservation rights junior to MDS, subject to MDS?

Interstate Water Issues:

- Republican River Compact:
 - KS V NE (Nebraska noncompliance in 2005-2006): The U.S. Supreme Court appointed Special Master continues an aggressive schedule for the case, rejecting Nebraska's request to extend deadlines by 13 months. Significant work completed related to discovery. Expert reports are due Nov. 15; responsive reports next March. Trial is likely to start late summer 2012.
- Colorado compliance pipeline: Ongoing negotiations between Kansas and Colorado over water delivery specifics, accounting, and other issues. Colorado is currently draining Bonny Reservoir to aid in both its statewide and South Fork Republican River compliance.
- Arkansas River Compact:
 - Compact model update: Kansas proposed change to the H-I Model to address irrigation efficiency improvements was approved by Colorado State Engineer Dick Wolfe and I on September 15.

Significant dams modifications approved:

- Yankee Tank, Lawrence, KS
- Augusta City Lake.

GMD

- GMD 2 updated meter regulations became effective.

Other

- Fracking/horizontal drilling – actively investigating water requirement, anticipated needs of industry; drafting permitting guidance.